Amendment to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0054] with the following amended paragraph:

[0054] The functional interaction of the antibodies of the present invention with TBP-II provides also a new diagnostic tool, based on immunoassays such as radioimmunoassay, ELISA etc., for the detection of over- or under-production of TBP-II by cells in the body in certain disorders. Thus, the level of TBP-II in sera of patients with different types of cancer or suffering from autoimmune disorders~~.~~, such as systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), can be determined this way. In an inverse approach, antibodies against TBP-II, when produced endogenously in the body, will be measured with the use of purified TBP-II. Detecting such autoantibodies, when formed in certain autoimmune disorders, is of extreme importance, since their ability to mimic or inhibit the effects of TNF surely has far-reaching bearing on the pathological syndromes of said disorders.

Please replace paragraph [0086] with the following amended paragraph:

[0086] The levels of TBP-II in the sera of healthy individuals, patients with cancer or systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and of pregnant women at term were

determined by an ELISA method employing a monoclonal antibody to TBP-~~IO~~ II coating the plates. 50 µl of each sample was added and after a 2.5 hr incubation at 37°C the wells were washed with a solution of PBS, TWEEN 0.05% and sodium azide 0.02%, after which a rabbit anti-TBP-II polyclonal antibody was added for 2.5 hr at 37°C. Then the wells were washed again (no azide) and goat anti-rabbit horseradish peroxidase-coupled antibody was added for 2 hr. Following this incubation, and washing, an ABTS buffer was added and optical density (O.D.) read 30 min. later at 600 nm.